prevent passage of cells therethrough, the sidewall of the tube further having a fibrous inner surface opposite the smooth barrier surface, wherein said sidewall is comprised of a mixture of Type III and Type I collagen, and wherein said mixture contains about 1-10% Type III collagen and about 90-99% Type I collagen.

13. (Amended) A nerve regeneration tube formed of a single sheet of a resorbable sidewall material comprising collagen material having a compact, smooth outer barrier surface so as to inhibit cell adhesion thereon and act as a barrier to prevent passage of cells therethrough, the sidewall of the tube further having a fibrous inner surface opposite the smooth barrier surface.

14. (Amended) The tube of claim 13, wherein said collagen material is derived from peritoneal membrane tissue.

15. (Amended) A method of producing a nerve regeneration tube as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

a) providing a single sheet of a resorbable sidewall material consisting essentially of collagen sheet material having a compact, smooth outer barrier surface so as to inhibit cell adhesion thereon and act as a barrier to prevent passage of cells therethrough, and a fibrous surface opposite the smooth barrier surface; and

b) forming said single sheet into a tube having said resorbable sidewall material consisting essentially of said collagen sheet material having said compact, smooth outer barrier surface oriented outwardly, said sheet material having an inner surface comprised of said fibrous surface opposite said smooth barrier surface.

18. (Amended) A method of producing a nerve regeneration tube as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

a) providing a sheet of collagen material having a compact, smooth outer barrier surface so as to inhibit cell adhesion thereon and act as a barrier to prevent passage of cells therethrough, and a fibrous surface opposite the smooth barrier surface; and

b) forming said sheet into a tube having a sidewall with said compact, smooth outer barrier surface oriented outwardly, said sidewall having an inner surface comprised of said fibrous surface opposite said smooth barrier surface;

wherein said sheet of collagen material has two opposite side edges, and the two side edges of said sheet are brought together to form said tube from said sheet;

further including a step of joining said two side edges together to form said tube from said sheet; wherein the two side edges are joined together by sutures or adhesive.

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated January 3, 2002, claims 1, 2, 5-17 and 19-21 were rejected. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants request reconsideration of this application and allowance of all of the presently pending claims, as amended.

Claims 3, 4 and 18 were not rejected in the Office Action. Accordingly, claims 3 and 18 have been placed in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and all intervening claims. Claim 4 remains dependent on claim 3. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 3, 4 and 18 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Shimizu U.S. Patent No. 6,090,117 (hereinafter "Shimizu"). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over